



For Further Study



Read and meditate on the passage below:

53 Who has believed our message

and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

² He grew up before him like a tender shoot,
and like a root out of dry ground.

He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

³ He was despised and rejected by mankind,
a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.

Like one from whom people hide their faces

he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. (*Isaiah 53:1-3*)

These verses come from the prophetic oracles attributed to Isaiah and his followers. Oftentimes, the prophets experienced mixed reviews, where some accepted and others rejected their message. Some believed, like Jairus, who came to Jesus for help with his dying daughter. Others rejected, like many in Nazareth, who saw Jesus as a mere carpenter of Joseph and Mary's family.

Even though these prophetic words primarily applied to the time that they were spoken, they can also be applied to times that mirror our experiences. We, like the prophets, go through times where people agree with us and other times when people reject our words (or even us) because of what we believe or do. Jesus was "despised and rejected" by some in his day, and it hurt him, just like it hurts us. We need to learn from Jesus' example about how to experience rejection, how to process it, and how to move forward through it.



REFLECTION:

Think about a recent time when you experienced rejection and how you got through it.

PRACTICE:

Talk to someone about rejection. Open up to them about your experience and feelings.